

In the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.(currently amended) A closure device for sealing a container having a neck with an opening edge, an outer thread and wherein the neck defines a central axis X-X', the closure device comprising:

a closure member adapted to close the neck, a sealing disc mounted ~~within~~ to said closure member and including a sealing layer for sealing said closure member to the opening edge of the neck when said closure member is mounted to the neck, said sealing disc including an outer annular portion projecting radially outwardly from the opening edge of the neck when said closure member is mounted thereto, and

a ring provided with an inner thread adapted to cooperate with the outer thread of the neck to thereby secure said closure member to the neck when said closure member is mounted thereto, said ring including at least one projection extending toward said outer annular portion of said sealing disc and adapted to exert a pushing effort (F_3) on said sealing disc in a direction to force

said sealing disc into spaced relationship with the opening edge of the neck when said closure member is being removed from the neck, wherein said at least one projection extends from an edge of said ring in a direction that is generally parallel with the central axis (X-X') of the neck.

2.(previously presented) The closure device according to Claim 1 wherein said closure member is a cap wherein said sealing disc is mounted adjacent an inner face of a bottom wall of said cap, said cap including an annular skirt, said cap and said ring being formed as separate pieces and being interfitted with one another such that said cap and said ring rotate together relative to the neck when said cap is being mounted to or removed from the neck of the container.

3.(previously presented) The closure device according to Claim 2 wherein said ring is provided, on an outer radial face thereof, with first elements in relief adapted to come into engagement with second elements in relief of cooperating shape formed on an inner radial face of said skirt.

4.(previously presented) The closure device according to Claim 1 wherein said at least one projection includes an inclined ramp that creates a progressive application of said effort (F_3), as a

function of a removal rotation of said closure member and said ring.

5. (currently amended) A container for a liquid, the container comprising: a body including a neck having an outer thread for cooperatively receiving a closure member for sealing an opening edge of said neck, said neck defining a central axis X-X',

a sealing disc mounted ~~within~~ to said closure member and including a sealing layer for sealing said closure member to said opening edge of said neck when said closure member is mounted to said neck, said sealing disc including an outer annular portion projecting radially outwardly from said opening edge of said neck when said closure member is mounted thereto, and

a ring provided with an inner thread adapted to cooperate with said outer thread of said neck to thereby secure said closure member to said neck when said closure member is mounted thereto, said ring including at least one projection extending toward said outer annular portion of said sealing disc and adapted to exert a pushing effort (F_3) on said sealing disc in a direction to force said sealing disc into spaced relationship with said opening edge of said neck when said closure member is being removed from said neck, wherein said at least one

projection extends from an edge of said ring in a direction that is generally parallel with the central axis (X-X') of said neck.

6.-10. (canceled)

11.(previously presented) The container of claim 5 wherein said body is a bottle made from plastic materials.

12.(previously presented) The container of claim 5 wherein said closure member is a cap wherein said sealing disc is mounted adjacent an inner face of a bottom wall of said cap, said cap including an annular skirt, said cap and said ring being formed as separate pieces and being interfitted with one another such that said cap and said ring rotate together relative to said neck when said cap is being mounted to or removed from said neck of said body of the container.

13.(previously presented) The container according to Claim 12 herein said ring is provided, on an outer radial face thereof, with first elements in relief adapted to come into engagement with second elements in relief of cooperating shape formed on an inner radial face of said skirt.

14.(previously presented) The container according to Claim 5 wherein said at least one projection includes an inclined ramp that creates a progressive application of said effort (F_3), as a function of a removal rotation of said closure member and said ring.

15.(currently amended) The container of claim 14 wherein said ring further includes ~~including~~ a plurality of projections equally spaced about said ring, said plurality of projections including said at least one projection.

16.(previously presented) The container of claim 13 wherein each of said first and second elements in relief includes a plurality of teeth.

17.(currently amended) The closure device of claim 1 wherein said ring further includes a plurality of projections equally spaced about said ring, said plurality of projections including said at least one projection.

18.(previously presented) The closure device according to Claim 17 wherein each of said projections includes an inclined ramp that creates a progressive application of said effort (F_3), as a

function of a removal rotation of said closure member and said ring.

19.(currently amended) The closure device of claim 1 wherein said at least one projection is ~~adapted to be~~ spaced from said sealing disc when said closure member is mounted to the neck of the container.

20.(currently amended) The container of claim 5 wherein said at least one projection is ~~adapted to be~~ spaced from said sealing disc when said closure member is mounted to said neck of said body of the container.